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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/078,271	02/20/2002	Manabu Takezaki	TAKEZAKI=1	3403

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EXAMINER

MANCHO, RONNIE M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3663

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/078,271

Applicant(s)

TAKEZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Ronnie Mancho

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2004.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10--14, 16-36 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,8,14,16,18-23 and 27-36 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-13 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,5-7,17 and 24-26 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

In amended page 5, third paragraph, "the voice direction to be given once in three times or once in four times" is not clear. It is not understood what "three times or four times" refer to.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 17, and 24 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 2, the applicant is advised to change "a predetermined period of *times*" to ---a predetermined period of *time*--- for clarity.

In claims 5&6, the applicant is advised to change "a number of times for the car to enter the predetermined area" to --- the number of times the car enters the predetermined area--- for clarity.

In amended claim 7, line 2, the examiner suggests that "is comprises" be written as --- comprises---.

In claim 17, line 1, the examiner suggests that "a travel warning direction device" be written as ---a travel direction warning device---; and that "detecting continuous driving condition" be written as ---detecting a continuous driving condition of a car--- for clarity.

In claim 24, line 2, the examiner suggest that "whether of not a car drives with a pre-set reference speed" should be changed to -- whether or not a drives within a preset reference speed

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range-- for clarity. In addition, the examiner suggests that "a voice warning direction" should be written as ----a voice warning--- for clarity.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 10, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Urano (5990898).

Regarding claim 10, Urano discloses a travel direction device comprising a controlling means (figs. 1B, 8, 12; col. 25, lines 15-19) for setting a predetermined area centered about school zone (col. 25, lines 34-62) as one of a plurality of school zones depending on type of the school, and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone.

Regarding claim 11, Urano discloses a travel direction device comprising a controlling means (figs. 1B, 8, 12; col. 25, lines 15-19) for setting a predetermined area (school zone, col. 25, lines 34-62) centered about a school as one of a plurality of types of school zones depending on types of roads (col. 25, lines 34-36), and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone.

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Regarding claim 12, Urano discloses a travel direction device comprising a controlling means for setting a predetermined area (school zone, col. 25, lines 34-62) centered about a school as one of a plurality of types of school zones depending on road density (col. 25, lines 34-36; i.e. all roads in the school zone are considered, therefore road density) surrounding the school, and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone (col. 25, lines 15-62).

Regarding claim 13, Urano discloses a travel direction device comprising a controlling means for setting a predetermined area (school zone, col. 25, lines 34-62) centered about a school as one of a plurality of types of school zones depending on area division, and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone (col. 25, lines 15-62).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-8, 14, 16, 24-26, 27, 36 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in this Office action.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In independent claim 1, the prior art does not disclose "a notification of direction is given less frequent than a number of times the car drives the traveling route if the car drives the traveling route a plurality of times".

In claims 14&16, the prior art did not disclose the limitation of changing contents of the warning depending on vehicle speed.

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In claims 16, the prior art did not disclose the limitation of a controlling means sending a deceleration signal to reduce the speed.

In claim 24, the prior art does not disclose "a voice output means for outputting a voice warning when the monotony driving detection means detects that the car drives within the reference speed range for the predetermined period of time".

In claims 27 and 36, the prior art does not disclose "wherein expressions and sex and age of the voice by the voice output means changes depending on time zone, seasons, events, and a number of time of travel".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 2-17-04 have been fully considered but they are not all persuasive for the following reasons:

In claim 10& 11, the applicant argues that the prior art Urano does not disclose changing the school zone area "types of the school". In response, such a limitation --- changing the school zone area--- was not part of the claim language. Urano mentions school zones and it is understood that the phrase ---school zones--- applies to any given school, be it a kindergartens, elementary, high school or colleges, etc. Therefore, it the prior art anticipates the claims.

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In claim 12, the applicant argues about the prior art not disclosing road density. The examiner respectfully disagrees. In Urano all roads in a school zone are taken into account when regulating traffic. Therefore, all the roads in the school constitute road density in the school area.

In claim 13, the applicant argues that the prior art does not disclose setting school zones based on area division. However, there was no mention of a highly populated area or a less populated in the claims as argued. The prior art Urano mentions School zones. The phrase --- school zones--- is understood to be partitioned according to zoning laws or rules in the given area, which applies to the claimed "area division".

It is believed that the rejection is proper and stands.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Communication

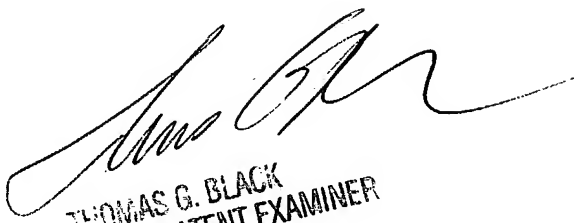
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronnie Mancho whose telephone number is 703-305-6318. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs: 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Black can be reached on 703-305-9707. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Ronnie Mancho
Examiner
Art Unit 3663

5-28-04


THOMAS G. BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2660